

12 MAR 1948

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NAVY review completed.

DOS review completed.

GENERAL

1. Norway opposed to any Soviet pact--Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange has informed US Ambassador Bay that the Norwegian Cabinet unanimously agreed on 8 March to reject any Soviet pact along the lines of the recent proposal to Finland. Lange added that he would seek support from the Danish and Swedish foreign ministers, but that Norway's determination is not contingent upon such support.

EUROPE

2. ITALY: Possible participation in western European union-- The Department of State has asked US Ambassador Dunn whether the prompt inclusion of Italy in the western European union security arrangements would help strengthen confidence of non-Communist elements in Italy and deter Soviets from further fifth-column action along the Czechoslovak model. The Department believes that US public opinion is now prepared to support strong measures and indicates that the US intends to support the "western union" arrangements now being considered at Brussels. The Department adds that Bevin and Bidault share the US desire to give maximum encouragement to Italy before the elections, but that the five governments conferring at Brussels may well hesitate at taking on such a heavy immediate liability.

Italian view on western European union--US Embassy Rome reports the unofficial opinion of the Italian Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs that before joining any western European union, Italy would require a military guarantee "both sure and immediate." The Italian official expressed the view that Italy's vulnerability to attack from Yugoslavia makes such a guarantee necessary but that such an agreement is probably beyond the power of the UK and France to offer.

Communist coup predicted--Commander in Chief, US Naval Forces in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, has

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

- 1 -

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED.

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: _____ By: _____

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forwarded from a subordinate command a "possibly true" report [redacted] that Italian Communist Leader Togliatti has stated he will seize control of the Government by a coup some time in May if the Communists fail to win the 18 April national elections.

(CIA Comment: Although CIA does not believe that the Italian Communists have the capabilities of carrying out a coup similar to that in Czechoslovakia, the Communists could launch an armed insurrection in Italy and may do so if they fail to win the national elections.)

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